



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
Washington, DC 20460

**OFFICE OF  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

September 1, 2020

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:**     OIG Hotline Referral 2020-0026

**FROM:**       Francesca T. Grifo, PhD  
                  Scientific Integrity Official

**TO:**           Kevin W. Collins  
                  OIG Hotline Director

On October 17, 2019, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) forwarded OIG Hotline Complaint No. 2020-0026 to EPA's Scientific Integrity Program. In collecting background information on this complaint, it was discovered that on February 6, 2020, the Washington State Dairy Federation and Cow Palace filed a Petition for Review to the Ninth Circuit Appeals Court. This Petition for Review requests the Ninth Circuit Court review the document referenced in the referral ("Relation Between Nitrate in Water Wells and Potential Sources in the Lower Yakima Valley"). The Scientific Integrity Program does not adjudicate legal claims or conduct parallel investigations of issues pertaining to legal claims. Given that the scientific product that is the subject of the referral is currently involved in pending litigation, the Scientific Integrity Program will not consider this complaint until such time that the litigation is complete.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at 202-564-1687 if you have any questions.